

#104

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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ROMANIA

Ceausescu Continues Stage Setting for 30th Anniversary

President Ceausescu's speech to the graduating class of the Romanian military academy on August 20 was a nationalistic pep talk.

As has become his custom, Ceausescu gave short shrift to the role of the Soviet army in "liberating" Romania in 1944. He did, however, laud the role of the Romanian army in liberating the country as well as Hungary and Czechoslovakia. He also praised the historic accomplishments of the Romanian Communist Party, and lauded the army for being ready to protect and defend the Fatherland. In addition, he said that Romania will "consolidate" its cooperation with the Warsaw Pact member states, while giving equal emphasis to "expanding" cooperation with the armies of all socialist countries and "the armies of other friendly countries."

The Romanian military maintains regular contact with the Chinese. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Ion Gheorghe, who just returned from an extended vacation in China, has also been invited to visit the US later this year.

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EAST GERMANY

Pankow Again Blasts Bonn

A sharply-worded commentary in Tuesday's Neues Deutschland blasted the West German government for its "continued" interference in East German internal affairs. The article also is a comprehensive restatement of the East German campaign to portray itself as an aggrieved and law-abiding partner in the bilateral relationship.

The main target of the commentary is the Central Registration Office in Salzgitter. The article charges that such "vestiges of the Cold War" as the Central Registration Office, as well as West German "legal and political positions

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on the unity of the German nation," must be eliminated before the normalization of relations called for in the General Relations Treaty can be achieved. The commentary ended with a veiled warning that "it has never paid Bonn to slight East German protests"--a probable reference to an earlier warning on the Salzgitter operations.

The Central Office has been investigating members of the East German judiciary, who have participated in the trials of more than 50 West German and West Berlin citizens charged with the alleged exfiltration of East Germans to the West. Pankow's prominent coverage of the sentencing of exfiltrators on a daily basis from July 12 to August 16 significantly contributes to inter-German polemics, especially since it coincided with the Federal Environmental Office controversy.

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